

MARVEL
PG 52 493

STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

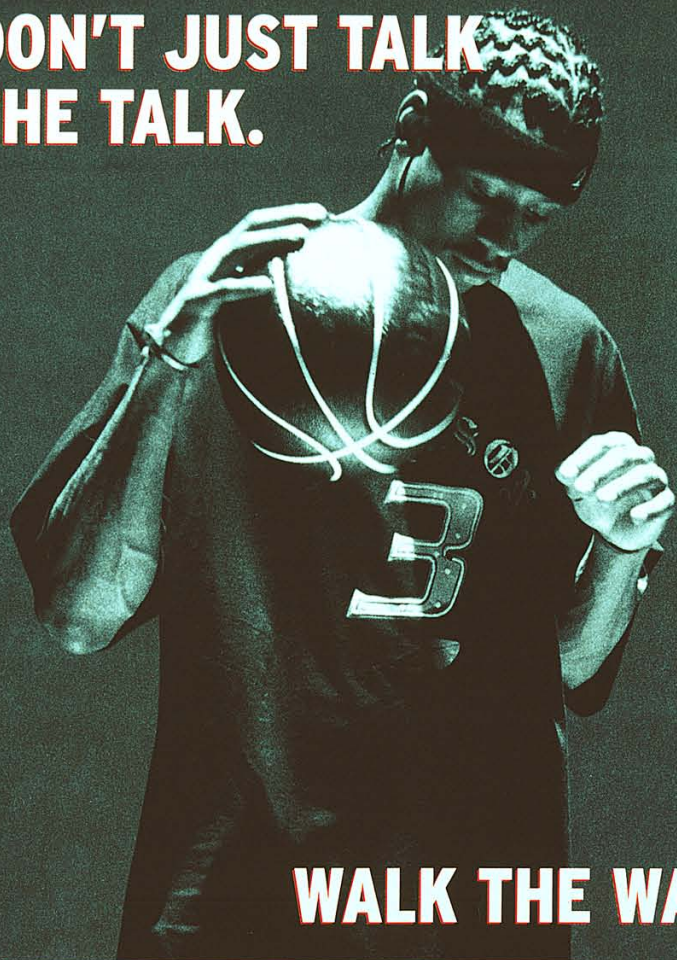
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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A lot of people think that my advantage comes in the form of my strength, agility, spider sense. You know... the usual.

They're wrong. It's a fifty-fifty split between all that, and the fact that I have a scientist's mind.

I approach any given situation and work to deduce what's going on, what my liabilities are, and who I'm up against.

And who the hell are you in that getup?

He's loud, annoying, he's broken up this party and he doesn't care who I am.

Deduction: he's from the Bronx.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
DIG THIS
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI WORDS
JOHN ROMITA JR. PICTURES

SCOTT HANNA INKS
DAN KEMP COLORS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS LETTERS

WARREN SIMONS
ET JOHN MIESGAES
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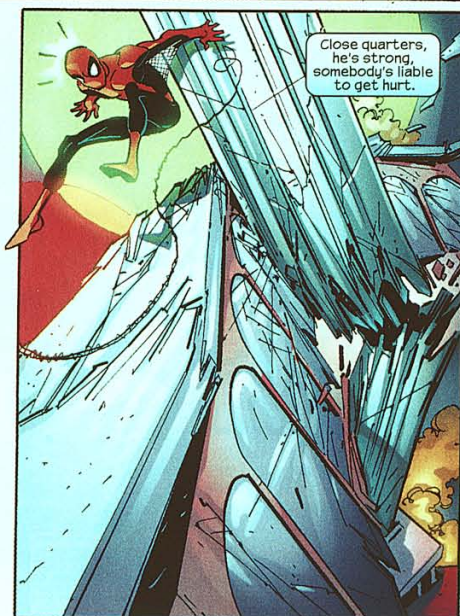
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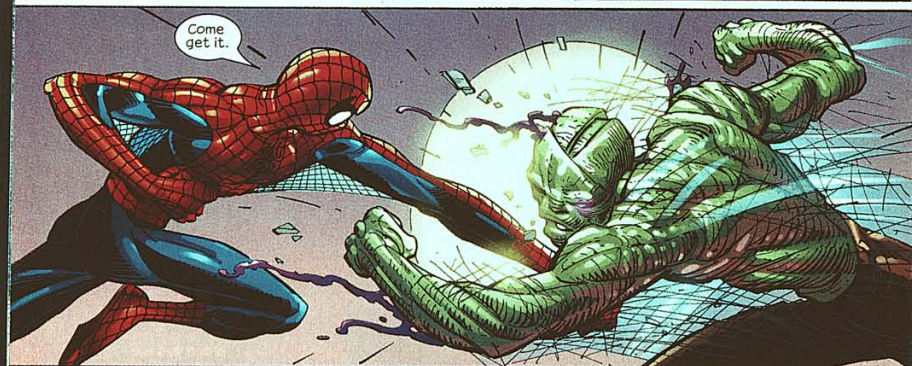
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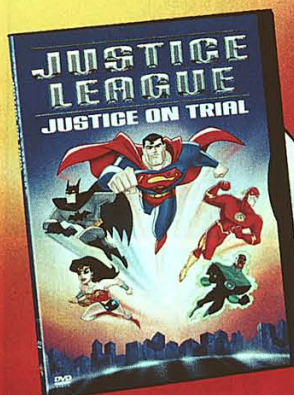
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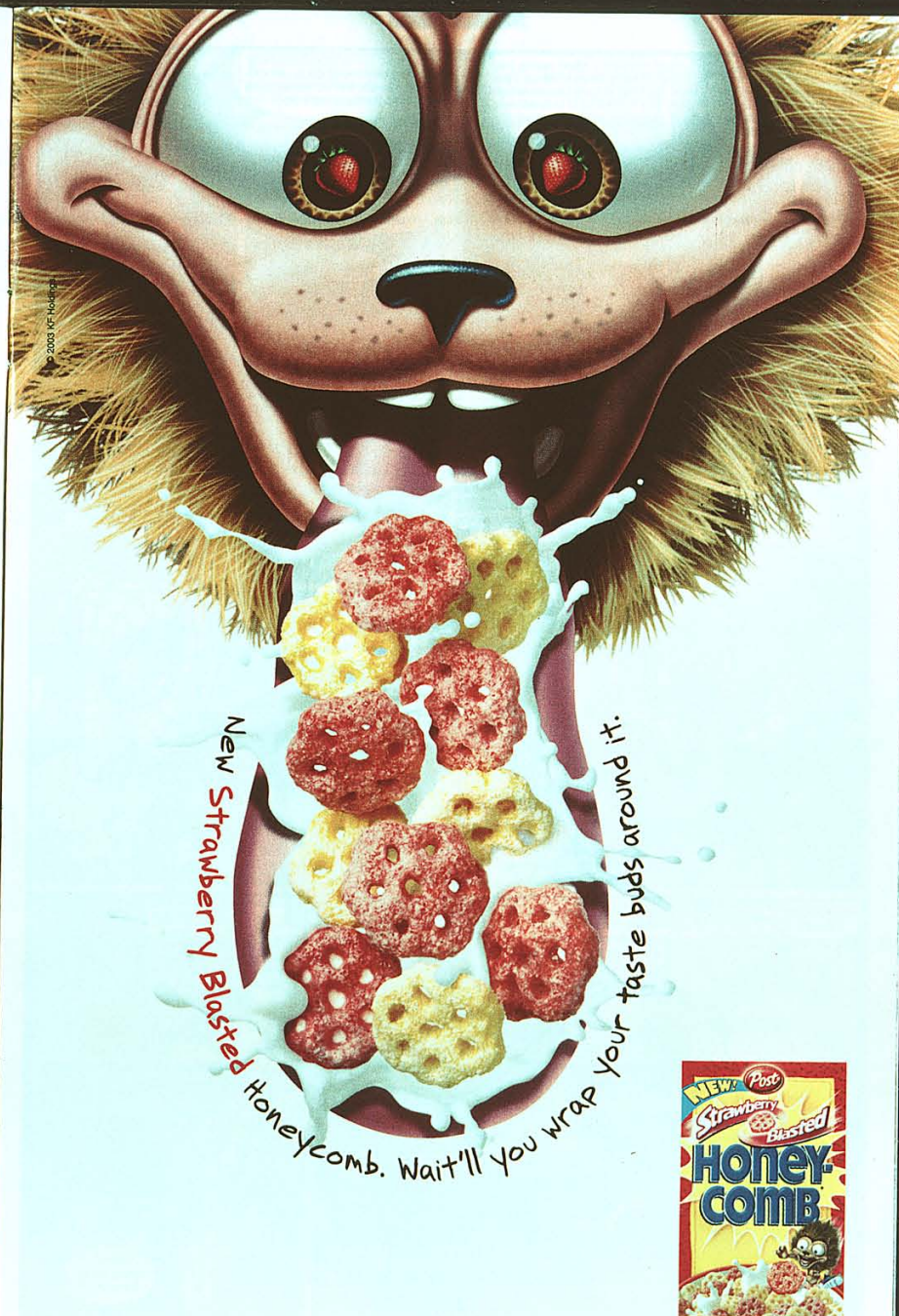
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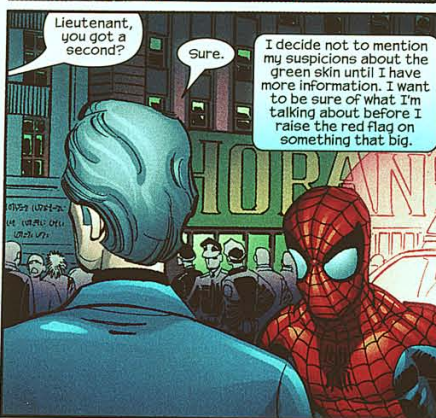
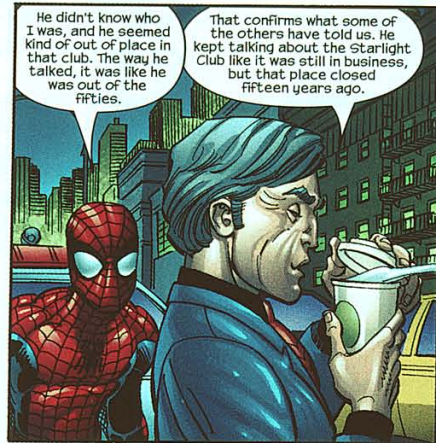


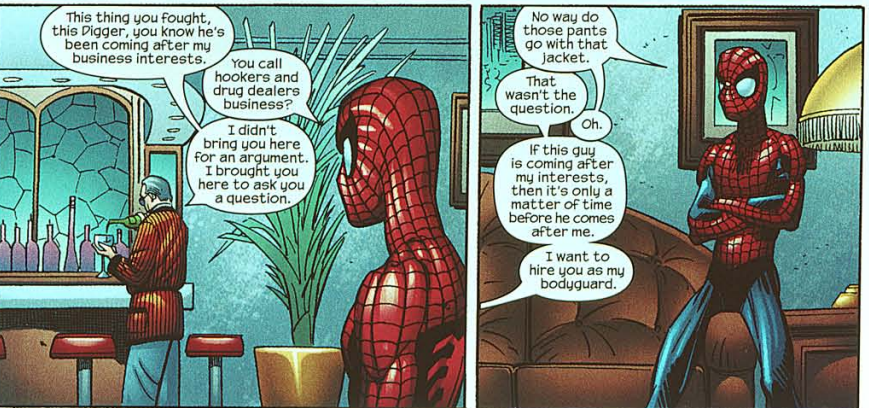
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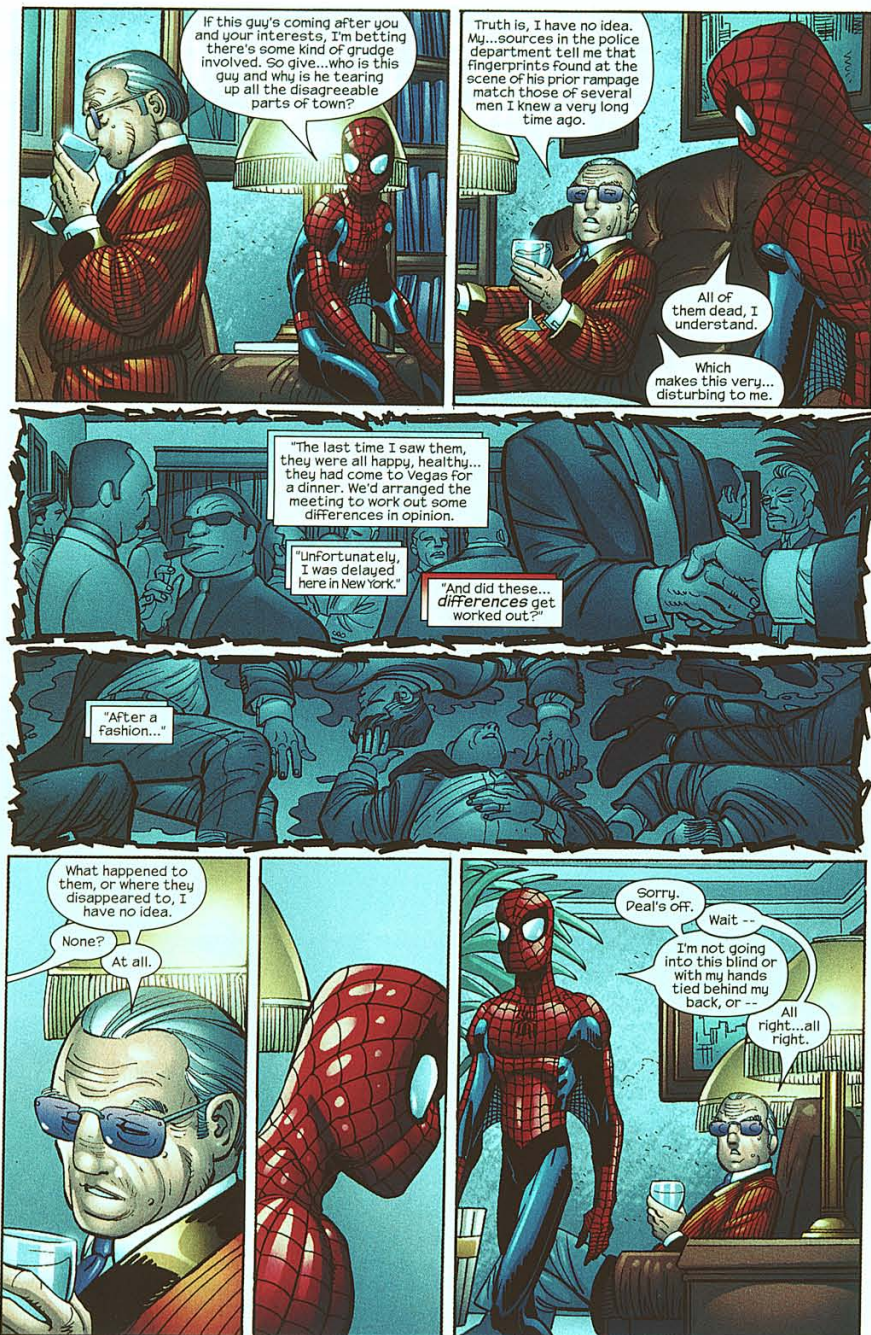


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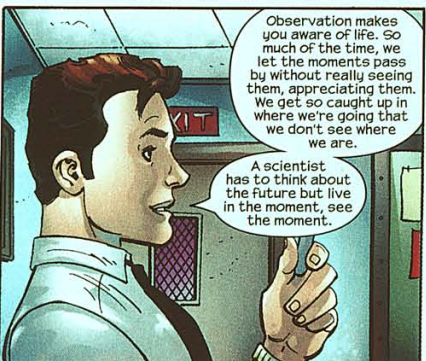
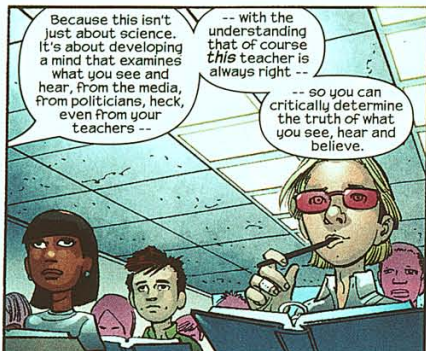
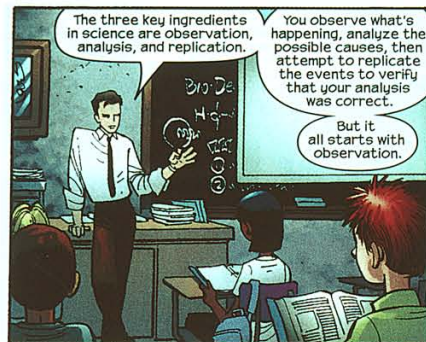




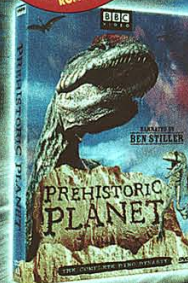








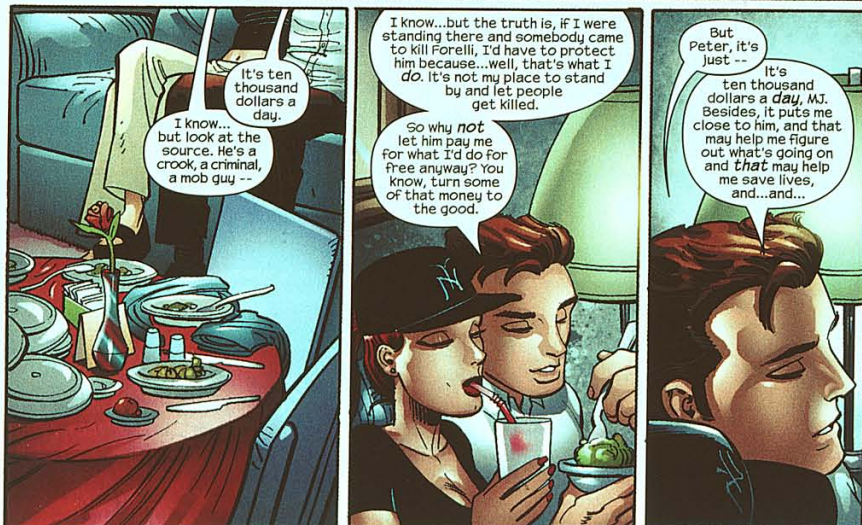
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You're doing this for me, aren't you?

No. Absolutely not.



Well, yeah --
Peter --



It'll take me a while until I can afford to get a new apartment big enough for both of us on a teacher's salary, and get you out of this --

-- five-star hotel the Manhattan Register is giving you while you're here shooting their cover.



I want to give you the life you deserve to have. I want you to have everything you ever wanted --

Then like I said: you're out of your mind.

Because the only thing I've ever wanted...
...is you.



But it's still ten grand a day --

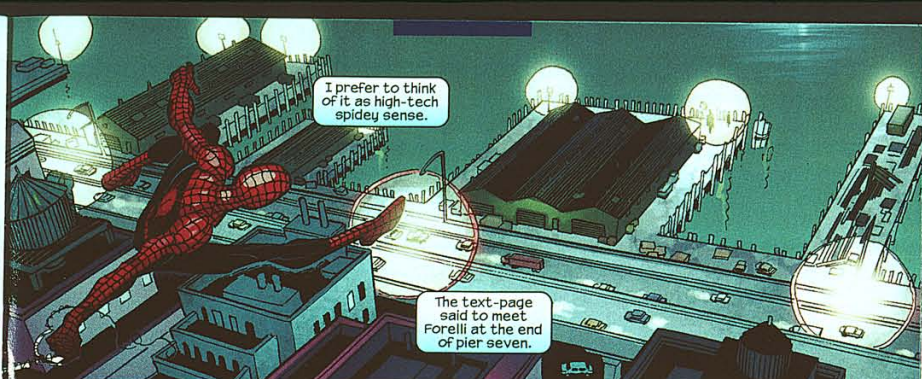
Peter --



Is that a pager in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?



Yeah, it's --
He gave you a pager?



I prefer to think of it as high-tech spidey sense.

The text-page said to meet Forelli at the end of pier seven.



From a distance, he looks like an old, tired man staring at the end of his life and the consequence of sins past.

I force myself to remember who and what he was, and still is. Even bad guys grow old.

More's the pity.

Okay, you can start the celebrations, I'm here. So what's the problem?



Look at the water. What do you see?

All the junk that'll wash up on the Jersey shore by morning, just as God intended. Other than that...not much.

Exactly.



One hour ago, there was a boat here.

It came in under cover of darkness. It was from one of our...overseas suppliers.

Drugs or smuggled goods?

I do not deal in drugs. Bad business.

Okay. Smuggling, then. And...?

Do you see a boat here now...?



"The captain radioed in to say they had arrived. Then silence. Minutes later, we received one last message."

"They were screaming."



"Then... silence."



The captain, his crew, they were from Sicily. Half of them did not even know or understand what it was they were carrying. They knew only that it was a good job, a paying job. A chance to see New York.



You are concerned with the safety of innocents, Spider-Man. This I know about you. These men... many of them, not all of them... were innocents.



As is... as is my daughter.



She knows little of what is said about me, and believes less. What I have done in the past... is what I have done. If there was a price to be paid, I was willing to pay it.

It is not right that she should pay the price for my sins. Not right at all.

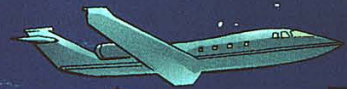


I will tell you... as much as I can. You will perhaps understand why I cannot say more.

And perhaps you will understand more than I wish you to understand. It is, unfortunately, a chance I must take.

Do you remember when I asked you if you had plans for the weekend, and you said no?

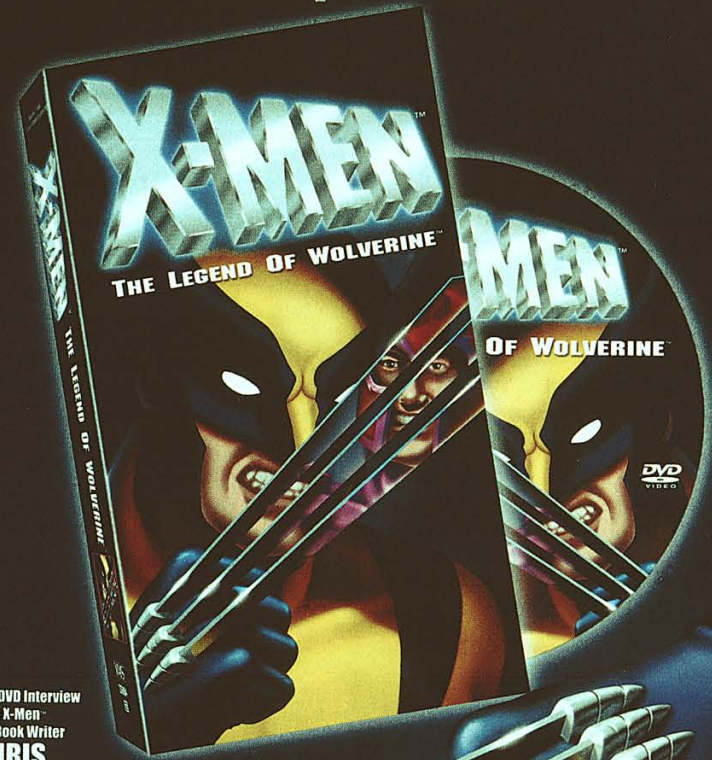
Yeah...?



"You do now."

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His Past Is About To Come Into Sharp Focus.

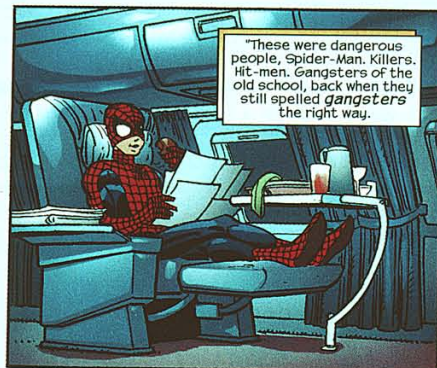


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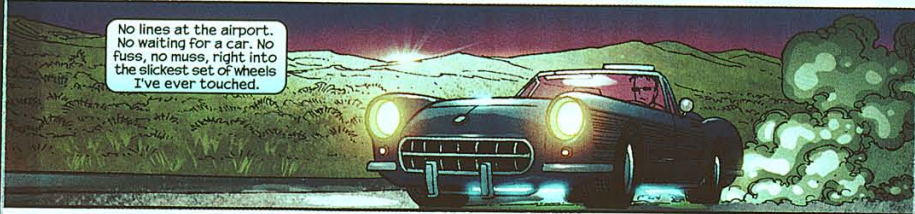
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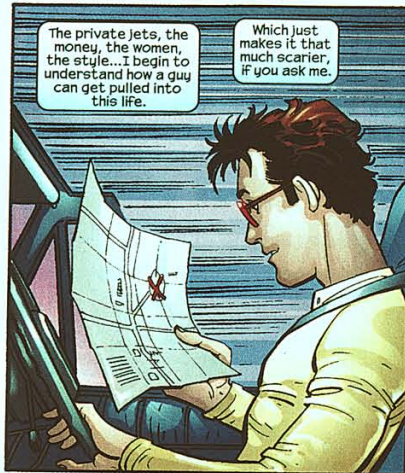
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No lines at the airport.
No waiting for a car. No
fuss, no muss, right into
the slickest set of wheels
I've ever touched.



The private jets, the
money, the women,
the style...I begin to
understand how a guy
can get pulled into
this life.

Which just
makes it that
much scarier,
if you ask me.



It would be "x-marks-
the-spot," wouldn't it?
But mob guys aren't
exactly known for
their imagination.

Does make it a bit
harder to find what I'm
looking for, though.

HONK!
HONK!



What
the --



Hey...
how's it
going?

Great,
dude, where've
you been?

Well,
I --



No sweat, man. We've
been here for days. Always
time for new blood to show
up, so the rest of us can
take a break.

They snuck
the first test past
the media before we
could do anything, but
now that we're here,
they can't test any
more bombs.



The Army boys
are pissed, but we're
on public land, and
they can't do anything
until they can get a
restraining order,
and our guys in town
are fighting it all
the way.



That's great. I mean,
it's a good cause. But
what made you think I'm
with you? I was just
driving and --

C'mon, man,
don't play around.
We saw what
you had.



Ground
zero, man.

Ground
zero.

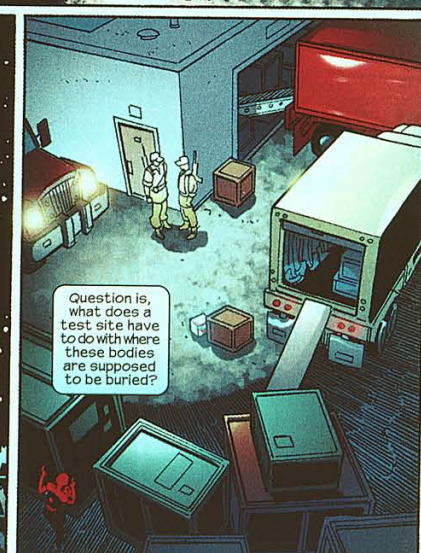


The problem with
the desert is that
there's nothing to
swing from.

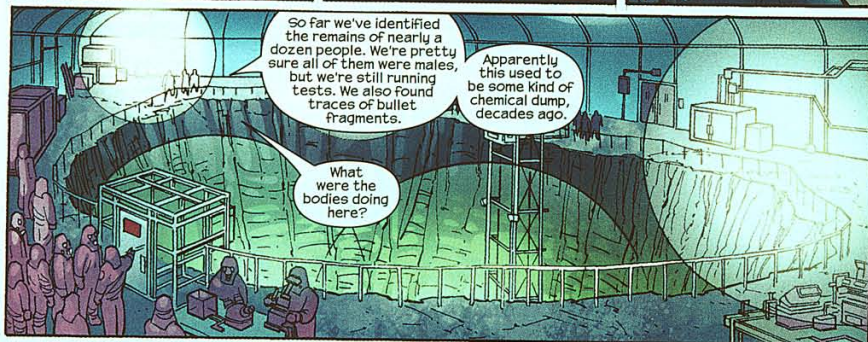


But like I
always say,
when life hands
you a lemon...

...squirt it in
somebody's
eye and run
like hell.



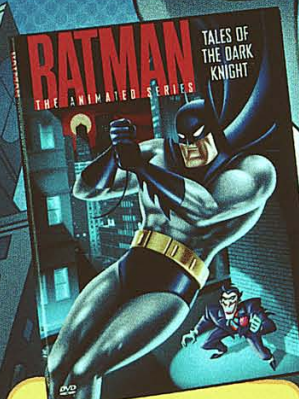
Question is,
what does a
test site have
to do with where
these bodies
are supposed to
be buried?



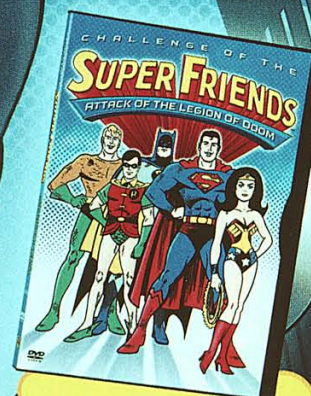
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But this is what we're worried about the most. As you can see, something dug its way out of the blast crater after the explosion.

Not possible. Nothing could have survived that explosion.



That's correct, sir. Nothing that was alive *before* the blast.

But that doesn't cover something that was dead...or artificially preserved...prior to the blast.



We don't know for sure, but given the missing body parts, it's possible that some of the pieces may have actually merged into one coherent form. Given what it would have taken to dig out from under tons of debris, the gamma burst may have also given it tremendous strength.

Great... just great. That's just what we need...



...a jigsaw puzzle Hulk that can't be killed because it's already dead...

"...I'd sure hate to meet one of those in a dark alley somewhere."



To be continued.

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